What Is Claimed Is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide at least 95% identical to a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acids 1 to 96 of SEQ ID NO:2.

2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, comprising a polynucleotide encoding amino acids 1 to 96 of SEQ ID NO:2.

3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, comprising nucleotides 34 to 321 of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which is DNA.

5. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which is RNA.

6. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further comprising a heterologous polynucleotide.

7. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide.

8. A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

9, A genetically engineered host cell that comprises the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

10. A genetically engineered host cell that comprises the polynucleotide of claim 1 operatively associated with a regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

11. A recombinant method for producing an IRAK-2 polypeptide, comprising culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 10 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed and recovering said polypeptide.

12. A recombinant polypeptide produced by the method of claim 11.

13. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 96 of SEQ ID NO:2.

14. The isolated polypeptide of claim 13, comprising amino acids 1 to 96 of SEQ ID NO:2.

15. The isolated polypeptide of claim 13, further comprising a heterologous polypeptide.